

"naturally," i retort, "but by then you will, of course, have personally chauffeured me to the poor house and the nut house."

for my wife and me this is just good wholesome dark humor, though not without its edge of truth,

but i notice on the face of my daughter, who loves me and depends on me, the same first slap of reality that i experienced when, at her age, i asked my father how long he thought he would live, and he said, "oh, according to the statistics, i'll be lucky if i last five more years," and the medical odds-makers had that one figured right on the money.

F.A.D.D.

someone brags to me that his compact car has a 1.7 liter engine, while my new hyundai, my first-ever brand-new car, has only 1.5 liters.

i don't know what he's talking about or even whether in this game a high score wins the game for you or loses it,

but i certainly want to have the last word, so i retort, with more truth than fiction,

"yeah, but my car has a 1.75 liter driver."

WEIGHING THE RISKS

"look," i tell chris daly, "i gave the guy a buck-fifty tip on a four-fifty fare — that was a thirty-three-and-a-third percent gratuity, and he was still pissed off at me."

"gerry," says chris, who is himself a cabbie, "what do you expect: the guy is first in the airport line and

he ends up with a mile-and-a-half,
five-buck fare. now he goes back

to the end of the line and it's
only a half-hour before the noise
curfew shuts the airport down.

"i know, but how was i supposed
to get home?"

"call your wife."

"she goes to bed early."

"but the cabbie might have been so
outraged — he might have murdered
you and dumped your body in dominguez hills."

"still," i conclude, "i'm glad i didn't
call my wife."

GREAT WEALTH MIGHT LEECH THE SWEETNESS FROM
HER DISPOSITION

sometimes for special occasions
such as mother's day
i give her a bunch of quick-picks
for the saturday night lottery.
after she goes to bed
and before i do,
i leave them out for her.
then she can bring in the sunday paper
and check to see if she has any winners.

of course, i listen to the late news to
make sure i'm not making anyone but me
a millionaire.

HOW IN TEN BRIEF YEARS THE FIRST AND SECOND WORLDS
CAME TO JOIN THE THIRD WORLD

i think that liberals have been
unfairly reluctant to give ronald
reagan his due for raising the
ante of the arms race so high that
he actually managed to bankrupt the
entire eastern communist bloc.

of course, in so doing, he broke
our bank as well.